

SEMPER FIDELIS

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIRED MARINES



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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

This year we celebrate the 228th anniversary of the founding of our Corps. As always, it is an occasion for remembrance, proud traditions, and joyful camaraderie. The events of the past year have called for great sacrifices from many Marines and their families. While the Global War on Terrorism will continue to demand the best from each of us, it is important that we join with our fellow Marines, families and friends to celebrate our Corps' special culture and unique warrior ethos.

This past year, Marines demonstrated once again that they are the most important entity on any battlefield. Lethal weapons and advanced technologies provide us unique advantages, but educated warriors ultimately determine victory in combat not machines. During Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, our small unit leaders' skills, adaptability and flexibility produced victory on uncertain and at times chaotic battlefields. We proved once again the power of integrated ground-air-logistics teams as well as the importance of every Marine being first and foremost a rifleman.

Our special spirit is evident not only in battle; it is evident in the faithful performance of demanding duties by countless Marines at home and abroad. Every Marine makes a vital contribution to the ability of our Corps to project and sustain credible combat power. Moreover, the willingness and readiness of all Marines to accept and accomplish any mission is central to our success and a hallmark of our warrior ethos.

The culture that defines the Marine Corps is nurtured by our traditions. In celebrating our heritage, we strengthen the linkages to a glorious history and recommit ourselves to upholding the standards and values given to us by past generations.

In commemorating our 228th anniversary, remain true to the spirit of the occasion. Reflect on our fallen with deep respect, observe our traditions with justifiable pride, take care of one another, and of course, celebrate those special bonds that exist among United States Marines.

Happy Birthday Marines, Semper Fidelis, and keep attacking!

M. W. Hagee
M. W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps

A Message from the...
Head, Retired Activities Section
(MMSR-6):

Dear Readers,

In July 2003, DFAS sent their first newsletter to retirees and annuitants and the content is most valuable. Case-in-point: myPay. myPay is accessible online and offers you the confidence in knowing that your pay information is accurate. myPay is available online at: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Key Features of myPay:

- ☆ View and print retiree account statement
- ☆ View and print tax statements (1099)
- ☆ Change federal and state tax withholding
- ☆ Update bank account and EFT information
- ☆ Manage financial allotments
- ☆ Edit personal address information

CRSC Update- DoD estimates they will receive approximately 22,000 applications from our existing population of retirees between 2003 and June 2005. The CRSC Branch is processing approximately 1000 applications per month. They are retroactive to the extent allowed by the law, but no case earlier than 1 June 2003. If you believe it essential to correspond with the CRSC Branch at some point in the process, they will respond within reason to written request.

If you are a military and civil service retiree who is enrolled in both Blue Cross/Blue Shield and TRI-CARE For Life and would like to cancel or suspend your Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage due to the redundancies or confusion of policy, contact me by e-mail or phone to initiate the process. I will provide you with a point of contact and review the procedures with you.

On behalf of all of us in the Separation and Retirement Branch, I would like to wish you all a healthy Marine Corps Birthday. Our beloved Corps continues to withstand the test of time as we focus on the future. However, never forgetting our roots of a rich history coupled by tradition and positive values. Happy Birthday to all! Don't forget to think safety during the upcoming holidays.

Semper Fi,

Wesley R. Combs

MR. WESLEY R. COMBS
 Separation and Retirement Branch
 Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
 DSN: 278-9091, (703) 432-9081, 1-800-336-4649
combswr@manpower.usmc.mil

Has Your Dependent ID Card Expired?

While the status of a retired Marine's identification card remains indefinite, that is not the case for his or her family members. ID cards for family members will expire after four years with the exception of college students. ID cards for college students expire when they reach 23. Incapacitated family members must be established as such before they reach 21. Do not let time pass you by before renewing an ID card for a family member. After years of inactivity, your data could be purged from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You will then have to resubmit documents to reestablish eligibility. Misplaced documents may be costly and time consuming to obtain. If the ID cards for your family members are not current, contact your nearest DEERS/Realtime Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) Center or MMSR-6 for assistance:

The Retired Marine's ID Card

As stated above, a retired Marine's identification card is issued indefinitely; however, a retired Marine may have to update his or her ID card because it was lost, stolen, or damaged or because of a change in status (i.e., such as a name change due to marriage, divorce or as requested by the Marine). A photo identification is required. MMSR-6 is your point of contact for more information.

ID Cards By Mail

If you live less than 300 miles from an ID card issuing site, you will have your card processed at the nearest location, but if you live more than 300 miles from a site, your card will be processed by mail. ID cards by mail are also processed for applicants due to disability or inability to travel. Submit an 8x10 photo (color is preferred) to MMSR-6.

DEERS Support Office

- ☆ Write: Attn: COA; 400 Gigling Rd., Seaside, Calif. 93955
- ☆ In California call: 1-800-334-4162
- ☆ In Alaska and Hawaii call: 1-800-527-5602
- ☆ Other areas call: 1-800-538-9552
- ☆ Fax: (408) 655-8317

Submit address changes to update DEERS:

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard.login?app=9012&rule=02>

E-Mail: addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil

Locate your nearest DEERS/RAPIDS Center online: Visit

<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>. The RAPIDS Sites Locator provides a listing of the three nearest sites. If you do not have online access, contact MMSR-6.

Turn to page 10 for more news on ID cards!



Semper Fidelis Directory Pages

While requests for inclusion in this column are accepted from non-profit organizations, we will run them on a rotational basis. Report incorrect information to the Editor (MMSR-6).

☆ ASSOCIATIONS:

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ORGANIZATION:
(817) 649-2979 www.axpow.org
E-MAIL: axpow@sbcglobal.com

CHINA MARINE ASSN: (410) 742-0930
E-MAIL: ag-gunner@juno.com

DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSN: (619) 688-0864
FAX: (619) 688-9631, E-MAIL: natdiass@k-online.com
4085 Pacific Hwy., San Diego, Calif. 92110

FLEET RESERVE ASSN: 1-800-FRA-1924
FAX: (703) 549-6610, www.fra.org

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSN: (703) 522-9629
P.O. Box 10806, Arlington, Va. 22210, www.kwva.org

MARINE CORPS ASSN: 1-800-622-1775
715 Broadway, Box 1775, Quantico, Va. 22134
www.mca-marines.org

MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSN: 1-800-280-3001
www.flymcaa.org

MARINE CORPS COORDINATING COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA, INC.
1420 Evergreen Cir., Midwest City, Okla. 73110, E-MAIL:
OklahomaMarines@cox.net, www.OklahomaMarines.org

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSN: (910) 346-8803
P.O. Box 566, Jacksonville, N.C. 28541
E-MAIL: www.ggg@aol.com

MARINE CORPS FOOD SERVICE ASSN INC:
(501) 982-8930, www.usmcfsa.com
1001 McArthur Dr., Jacksonville, Ark. 72026

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE: 1-800-MCL-1775
www.mcleague.org

MARINE CORPS MUSICIANS ASSN: (661) 821-1683,
E-MAIL: jazjz@sierraatel.com

MARINE CORPS MUSTANG ASSN INC: 1-800-321-USMC
E-MAIL: topmustang@aol.com

MARINE CORPS RECRUITERS ASSN: (972) 625-0720, (352)
726-5622, E-MAIL: dandodie@earthlink.net or
spinelli@atlantic.net

MARINE CORPS RESERVE ASSN: 1-800-927-6270
(703) 630-3772, E-MAIL: gygreen@aol.com

MARINE EMBASSY GUARD ASSN: www.embassymarine.org

MARINE EXECUTIVE ASSN: (703) 734-7974
www.Marineea.org

NAVY MUTUAL AID ASSN: 1-800-628-6011
(703) 614-1638, www.navy mutual.org
E-MAIL: info@navymutual.org

SECOND MARINE DIV. ASSN: (910) 451-3167 www.2marine.com
P.O. Box 8180; Camp Lejeune, N.C. 28547

TANKERS ASSN: (760) 439-7435
FAX: (760) 439-7451, www.mcta2000.org,
E-MAIL: xsecmcta@juno.com
P.O. Box 3077; Oceanside, Calif. 92051

THIRD MARINE DIV. ASSN: www.caltrap.com
P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, Pa. 18914-0254, (215) 822-9094

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS: www.va.gov/vso

VIETNAM HELICOPTERS ASSN: (540) 364-9424
www.popasmoke.com

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC. (202) 628-2700
www.vva.org, E-MAIL: 71154.702@compuserve.com

WOMEN MARINES ASSN: 1-888-525-1943
www.womenmarines.org
P.O. Box 1907; Woodbridge, Va. 22195
E-MAIL: WMA@womenmarines.org

1ST MARINE DIV. ASSN: (703) 803-3195
14325 Willard Rd., Ste. 107, Chantilly, Va. 20151-2110
(703) 803-3195, E-MAIL: oldbreed@aol.com
www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org/

☆ DENTAL, HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE:

FEDERAL LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM:
1-800-582-3337, www.ltcfeds.com

MEDICARE: 1-800-633-4227, www.medicare.gov

NATIONAL MAIL ORDER PHARMACY: 1-800-903-4680
www.tricare.osd.mil

Effective 1 July 2003, the TRICARE Information Call Center will have new hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., EST (excluding federal holidays). Please be aware that all calls are answered in English only. TRICARE Management Activity National toll-free numbers are:

SENIOR PHARMACY PROGRAM: 1-877-363-6337
TRICARE FOR LIFE: 1-888-363-5433
TRICARE ONLINE: 1-866-363-3932

TRICARE CUSTOMER SERVICE: (703) 681-1770
Obtain assistance in resolving beneficiary problems
www.myTRICARE.com

TRICARE HELP ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEM:
TRICARE_Help@amedd.army.mil

TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM: 1-888-336-3260
www.ddpdelta.org

TRICARE SENIOR PHARMACY PROGRAM: 1-877-363-6337

TRICARE SUPPORT OFFICE: www.tricare.osd.mil
E-MAIL: tricare-on@csdmail.Medcom.amedd.army.mil

TRICARE NORTHEAST, REGION 1: 1-800-308-3518
(Northern portion of Va., eastern portion of W. Va., Md., Del., N.J., Pa., N.Y., Conn., R.I., Mass., N.H., Vt. And Maine)

TRICARE MID-ATLANTIC, REGION 2: 1-800-931-9501
(Southern Va. and all of N.C.)

TRICARE SOUTHEAST/GULFSOUTH REGION 3/4:
1-800-333-5331 (Al., eastern Ark.-near mid-south Mil-
lington, Tenn.-Fla., Ga., La. Eastern and Miss., S.C. and
Tenn.)

TRICARE HEARTLAND, REGION 5: 1-800-941-4501
(Ill., Ind., Ky., Mich., Ohio, W.Va., Wisc. and St. Louis
area of Mo.)

TRICARE SOUTHWEST, REGION 6: 1-800-406-2832
(Ark., La.-western-, Okla., Texas-except El Paso)

TRICARE CENTRAL, REGION 7/8: 1-888-874-9378
(Ariz.-except Yuma-, Colo., Idaho-except Northern Idaho-
Iowa, Kan., Minn., Mo.-except St. Louis-Mont., Neb.,
Nev., N.M., N.D., S.D., Texas-El Paso area only-Utah and
Wyo.)

TRICARE SOUTHERN CALIF., REGION 9 AND GOLDEN STATE
REGION 10: 1-800-242-6788 (Calif.)

TRICARE NORTHWEST, REGION 11: 1-800-404-2042
(Ore., Wash., and Idaho-northern to include Boundary,
Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Latah and Shoshone coun-
ties)

TRICARE PACIFIC: 1-800-242-6788 (Alaska and Hawaii)

TRICARE LATIN AMERICA: 1-888-777-8343 (Panama, Central
America and South America)

TRICARE KOREA: 003-081-10332 (U.S. call 1-800-917-9172
or from wherever 800 service is available)

TRICARE EUROPE: 1-888-777-8343 (Europe, Africa, Middle
East, Azores and Iceland)

TRICARE PACIFIC: 1-800-777-8343 (western Pacific)

☆ EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE: (202) 502-7300
<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool>

FEDERAL STUDENT AID INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER:
1-800-USA-LEARN, www.ed.gov

VA EDUCATION CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE: 1-888-442-4551
www.gbill.va.gov

MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION: 1-800-292-7777
FAX: (609) 452-2259, P.O. Box 3008, Princeton, N.J.
08543-3008, E-MAIL: mcsf@marine-scholars.org
www.marine-scholars.org

☆ FOUNDATIONS:

DEVIL PUPS INC: (805) 497-9810, www.devilpups.com
340 N. Westlake Blvd., Ste. 260
Westlake Village, Calif. 91362-7036

FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC: www.fisherhouse.org
1-888-294-8560, FAX: (301) 294-8562
1401 Rockville Pike, Ste. 600, Rockville, Md. 20852
E-MAIL: FisherHouse@aol.com

FLYING LEATHERNECK HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:
(858) 693-1723, www.flyingleathernecks.org
E-MAIL: flhf@flyingleathernecks.org

HOSPICE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA: 1-800-854-3402
FAX: (202) 638-5312, www.hospicefoundation.org
2001 S St., N.W. #300, Washington, D.C. 20009

MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION: 1-800-397-7585
(703) 640-7961 www.marineheritage.org
E-MAIL: info@marineheritage.org

MARINE CORPS VIETNAM TANKERS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:
(253) 835-9083, 707 S.W. 350th Ct., Federal Way, Wash.
98023-8104, E-MAIL: USMCVTFoundation@aol.com

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION: www.mcuf.org
(703) 640-6835, 1-888-368-5341, FAX: (703) 640-6177
P.O. Box 122, Quantico, Va. 22134-0122
E-MAIL: mcuf@mcuf.org

MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION: (703) 640-9433
FAX: (703) 640-0917, www.toysfortots.org
P.O. Box 1947, Quantico, Va. 22134
E-MAIL: murrayba@nt.quantico.usmc.mil

☆ HEADQUARTERS USMC AND DEFENSE-RELATED SUPPORT:

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES: www.afrh.com

- United States Naval Home, Attn: Resident Affair Office,
1800 Beach Dr., Gulfport, Miss. 39507-1597
1-800-332-3527, (228) 896-3110
- United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home
Attn: PAO 499, 3700 North Capitol St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20317-0001
1-800-422-9988, (202) 730-3337
Home Guest House Reservation Line: (202) 730-3044

ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE (AAFES):
1-800-527-2345 (questions about eligibility)
www.aafes.com, www.usmc-mccs.org

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS (BCNR):
(703) 614-1316
CMC, 2 Navy Annex, Washington, D.C. 20370-5100

COLD WAR CERTIFICATE: <http://coldwar.army.mil>
Cdr., PERSCOM, Cold War Recognition Hoffman II
Attn: TAPC-CWRS 3N45
200 Stovall St., Alexandria, Va. 22332-0473
FAX: 1-800-723-9262, (703) 325-2167

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA):
www.usdoj.gov/oip/foia_updates/Vol_XVII_4/page2.htm

LEATHERNECK MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES:
1-800-336-0291, ext. 315, (703) 640-6161, ext. 315
P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va. 22134
E-MAIL: leatherneck@mca-marines.org

MARINE CORPS CASUALTY ASSISTANCE (MRC):
3280 Russell Rd., Quantico, Va. 22134-5103
1-800-847-1597, (703) 784-9512
www.usmc-mccs.org (select "Casualty Assistance")

MARINE CORPS MARATHON: 1-800-RUN-USMC
(703) 784-2225, www.marinemarathon.com
P.O. Box 188, Quantico, Va. 22134

MARINE CORPS MILITARY AWARDS (MMAA): (703) 784-9206/07
3280 Russell Rd., Quantico, Va. 22134-5103

MARINE CORPS RECORDS CORRESPONDENCE (MMSB-12):
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3920/4646/5616
2008 Elliot Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5030

MARINE CORPS INACTIVE RESERVE (MMSR-5):
3280 Russell Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5103
1-800-336-4649, (703) 784-9306

MARINE CORPS RETIRED LIST MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT
SECTION (MMSR-7):
3280 Russell Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5103
1-800-715-0968, (703) 784-9317

MCJROTC PROGRAM: (703) 784-3705, FAX: (703) 784-4050
Commanding General
Training and Education Command C 469, MCCDC
3300 Russell Rd; Quantico, Va. 22134-5001
www.tecom.usmc.mil/jrotc
E-MAIL: duffypc@tecom.usmc.mil

MARINE CORPS AVIATION RECONNAISSANCE ASSN. INC:
<http://business.quadlink.net/adirondack/mcara>
E-MAIL: wcrbillmar@aol.com

MARINE CORPS GAZETTE: 1-888-237-7683
(703) 640-6161, E-MAIL: gazette@mca-marines.org

MARINE CORPS MUSEUM, MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL CENTER
(202) 433-4534
Bldg. 58, Washington Navy Yard, 1254 Charles Morris
St., SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5040

MARINE CORPS 8TH AND I PARADE: (202) 433-6060

MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB: 1-800-5-MARINE
www.marineclub.com, E-MAIL: member@marinclub.com

MARINE MILITARY EXPOSITION: (703) 488-2700
www.marinecorpsexpos.com, Dulles International Airport
P.O. Box 17413, Washington, D.C. 20041

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY: (703) 696-4904
FAX: (703) 696-0144
801 N. Randolph St., Ste. 1228; Arlington, Va. 22203

SOCIAL SECURITY: 1-800-SSA-1213, www.ssa.gov

U.S. ARMY EUROPE RETIREMENT SERVICES:
www.1perscom.army.mil (Select "USAREUR Ret. Svcs.")

☆ MARINE CORPS TEMPORARY LODGING FACILITIES:

MCLB ALBANY - (229) 639-5614
MCAS YUMA - (928) 269-2262, FAX: (928) 269-6639
MCLB BARSTOW - (760) 577-6418, FAX: (760) 577-6110
MCB CAMP PENDLETON - (760) 725-5304/5194
FAX: (760) 725-5609
MCAS MIRAMAR - (619) 271-7111, FAX: (619) 695-7371
RESERVATIONS: 800-628-9466
MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS - (760) 830-6573/6583
FAX: (760) 830-1647
MCB HAWAII - (808) 254-2716
MCB CAMP S.D. BUTLER - (760) 577-6418
FAX: (760) 577-6110
MCB CAMP LEJEUNE - (910) 451-3041, FAX: (910) 451-9605
MCRD PARRIS ISLAND - (843) 525-2976, FAX: (843) 228-2872
MCAS BEAUFORT - (843) 522-1663
MCCDC QUANTICO - (703) 630-4444, FAX: (703) 630-4499
RESERVATIONS: 1-800-965-9511

☆ PAY ISSUES (RETIRED MARINES AND ANNUITANTS):

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE: www.dfas.mil

Retired Marines (7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri., EST)

DFAS, U.S. Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130, London, Ky. 40742-7130
CASUALTY REPORTING: 1-800-321-1080
CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-321-1080
FAX: 1-800-469-6559 (no voice communication)
OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES: (216) 522-5955

Special Compensation for Severely Disabled:

DFAS, P.O. Box 998011
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-8011
(216) 522-6170, 1-800-321-1080
FAX: 1-800-469-6559

Annuityants:

DFAS, U.S. Military Annuity Pay, P.O. Box 7131
London, Ky. 40742-7131
CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-321-1080
FAX: 1-800-982-8459

☆ STEPS TO TAKE IN THE EVENT OF A MARINE'S DEATH (THE FOLLOWING LISTING SERVES AS GUIDANCE ONLY; CALL MMSR-6 FOR MORE INFORMATION):

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: (703) 695-3255
(703) 697-9486, www.arlingtoncemetery.org

DFAS CASUALTY REPORTING: 1-800-321-1080

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION: 1-800-827-1000
www.va.gov/cemetery/index.htm

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS, INC:
1-800-959-8277, www.taps.org

VA BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE: 1-800-827-1000, www.va.gov

VA INSURANCE CENTER: 1-800-669-8477

☆ TRAVEL PLANNING:

AIR MOBILITY COMMAND (SPACE-A TRAVEL):
<http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, EUROPE:
www.afrc europe.com
E-MAIL: vacation@afrc.garmisch.army.mil

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, FLA:
Shades of Green (located on Walt Disney World property)
1-888-593-2242, (407) 824-3600, www.shadesofgreen.org

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, HAWAII:
1-800-367-6027, FAX: 1-800-HALE-FAX

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, KOREA:
011-82-2-790-0016, FAX: 011-82-2-790-1576

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, TOKYO:
011-822-790-0016, FAX: 011-822-792-0036
www.thenewsanno.com

ARMED FORCES VACATION CLUB: www.afvclub.com
1-800-724-9988 (to book a space-available unit you will need
account #7033-0000 and installation #227)

FORT RICHARDSON SEWARD RESORT, ALASKA: 1-800-770-1858
www.usarak.army.mil/framwr/seward.htm

NAVY LODGE WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS CENTER:
1-800-NAVY-INN, www.navy-nex.com/lodge

STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL WARNINGS: <http://travel.state.gov>
Hotline for American Travelers: (202) 647-5225

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E-MAIL HOME: ellisond@cox.net

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Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council Enlisted Vacancy Review

If you applied for the enlisted vacancy position to serve on the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council (SECNAV RC), now comes the hard part—waiting while the selection process takes place.

MMSR-6 has received more than 40 resumes for the sole enlisted vacancy on the council. Selection criteria always include items such as involvement with military associations and experience dealing with significant retiree issues. MMSR-6 will conduct an initial review of each submission. The most highly qualified applications will be forwarded and a selection will be made.

We will notify readers of the newest SECNAV RC member in an upcoming issue of the *Semper Fidelis*.

Thank you for applying and good luck!

Military Records

DD Form 214s and Medical Records

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS

9700 Page Blvd.; St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5100
(314) 801-0800, Fax: (314) 801-9195

A veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran may initiate an online request for a DD 214 by visiting:
<http://www.vetreca.archives.gov>

NOTE: Online submissions must be followed up with a signature that is mailed in by the veteran or next of kin. For those without online access, you may submit your request by writing a letter. Provide the veteran's full name, SSN, mailing address, daytime telephone number, applicable service number, branch of service, dates of service, type of information needed (e.g., DD 214, medical records), reason for the request and the veteran's or next of kin's signature on the request.

Do Not Send MMSR Certified Mail!

Necessary Signatures
May Cause Delays



Certified mail requires that the person you designated on the envelope must sign it. If the individual is unavailable when the mail is delivered, the mail is then forwarded to the Quantico Post Office for signature and pickup. To avoid delays in processing your request, use the following format:

ATTENTION (RANK/NAME)
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6)
3280 Russell Road, Quantico, Va. 22134-5103

Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. From 1947 through 1979, Marines collected and distributed new and used toys. On Reserve drill weekends during October, November, and December, Reserve Marines refurbished the used toys. From Christmas 1980 through the present, Marines have collected and distributed only new toys. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity, independent of the Marine Corps, is the authorized fund raising and support organization for the Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation provides the funding and support needed for successful annual toy collection and distribution campaigns.

To make a donation by check, write: Marine Corps Foundation, P.O. Box 1947, Quantico, Va. 22134 (make check payable to Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation). To donate by credit card, visit <http://www.toysfortots.org/2002/index.html>. To reach Toys for Tots by telephone, call (703) 640-9433.



TRICARE News

TRICARE Encourages Sponsors to Wrap Their Newborn Babies in DEERS



At birth, a newborn baby is often wrapped in a blanket for added warmth and protection. The Department of Defense also offers newborns a blanket of protection. As a beneficiary of the Military Health System, enrolling your newborn son or daughter in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), provides you with the comfort of knowing your baby is TRICARE eligible and will continue receiving the essential well baby and pediatric health care he or she needs. As a parent of a newborn, one of the first decisions you probably made was deciding on a name for your new "bundle of joy". As a TRICARE beneficiary, the second and most important decision you should make is to enroll your newborn baby in DEERS as soon as possible after birth.

Uniformed Services sponsors are responsible for keeping their family members' TRICARE eligibility in DEERS current. By enrolling your newborn in DEERS, you establish TRICARE eligibility for the baby and avoid potential claim problems or other financial hardship in the future if your baby is not properly enrolled. A newborn infant is covered as a TRICARE Prime beneficiary in DEERS for the first 120 days after birth—as long as one additional family member is enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote. After the initial 120 days, any claim submitted for a newborn will process as TRICARE Standard until the infant is enrolled in DEERS and TRICARE Prime, or the infant's TRICARE Standard eligibility ends. Eligibility for TRICARE Standard benefits ends 365 days after birth for any newborn infant who is not enrolled in DEERS.

To establish TRICARE eligibility in DEERS, parents or legal guardians are required to submit a certificate of live birth from a hospital or TRICARE approved birthing center and a copy of a verified and approved DD Form 1172 "Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card" signed by the sponsor. For more information on enrolling your newborn baby in DEERS, turn to page 2. Additional information on DEERS eligibility is available at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm>.



VA News

VA Seeks Former POWs for Possible Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is asking former prisoners of war not currently using VA benefits to contact the VA to find out if they may be eligible for disability compensation and other services. More than 23,000 former prisoners of war

(POWs) already receive compensation from VA. This year, the department mailed information about benefits to another 4,700 known ex-POWs not on its rolls. However, the VA estimates there could be as many as 11,000 more POWs for whom it does not have an address.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi said the VA has expanded policies to cover increasing numbers of former POWs as new illnesses have been found related to captivity. The administration currently is pressing to get even more compensation and medical care benefits for former POWs. "These veterans sacrificed for their country in time of war, and it's the nation's turn to serve them, to help them determine if they are entitled to compensation, health care or other services," Principi said. Nine out of ten former POWs are veterans of World War II, and their service predates the use of Social Security numbers as a military "service number." That, coupled with the decades that have elapsed since their service, makes it difficult for VA to track down those who have not opened a file with VA in recent years. The most recent expansion of VA benefits for former POWs was a July regulation that added cirrhosis of the liver to the list of diseases to which entitlement to disability compensation is presumed in former POWs. Similar policies making it easier for former POWs to obtain compensation have been enacted for POWs detained for 30 days or more who develop specific illnesses.

Former POWs have a special eligibility for enrollment in VA medical care and are exempt from making copayments for inpatient and outpatient medical care. They have the same copay rules as other veterans for medications and for extended care. Free dental treatment for any dental condition is available to former POWs held for more than 90 days. The VA is asking former POWs not receiving benefits who did not receive a VA letter recently to call the department at 1-800-827-1000. More information about VA services for former POWs is also available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/>.

VA Increases Payments to Medal of Honor Recipients

Recently, the monthly federal payments to 136 living recipients of the Medal of Honor have risen to 67%. Since at least World War I, the federal government's agency for veterans - now the VA - has paid a monthly stipend to holders of the military's highest decoration for combat valor. Under the new rates, the payments will rise from \$600 monthly to \$1,000 monthly. "This increase reflects...the thanks of President Bush and a grateful nation for the uncommon valor and bravery of these veterans," said VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi. "They are living examples of sacrifice, love of country and dedication to duty."

The increase was authorized by the Veterans Benefits Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-330), which also set up a formula for future increases in the Medal of Honor stipend based on the annual rate of inflation. Previously, each increase in the Medal of Honor stipend required a specific act of Congress. The rate went from \$10 in 1916 to \$100 in 1961, \$200 in 1979, \$400 in 1993, and \$600 in 1998. The new law also provides for a retroactive payment of stipends to cover the period between the act of valor and the awarding of the Medal of Honor. For those previously non-covered months or years, the payment will be based on the rate in effect at the time of the act of valor.

Adjustment checks covering the month of September and any retroactive payments due will be released to Medal of Honor recipients this month. The new rate will be reflected in regular monthly payments started 1 Nov. The VA supported legislation for the rate increase, inflation adjustments, and retroactive payments. The benefits will total approximately \$6.1 million through fiscal year 2012.

VA to Fill Prescriptions by Non-VA Physicians

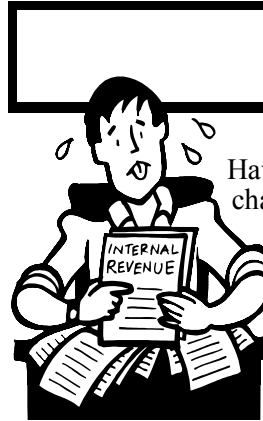


Some veterans waiting to see their VA physicians for the first time may be eligible to receive medications from the VA mail-out pharmacies that were prescribed by private doctors, under a new policy announced recently. "This policy should ease the minds of veterans with pharmaceutical needs who have been waiting too long for their first appointment," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "This decision will help these veterans while preserving our ability to serve others." To be eligible for the new benefit, veterans must meet all of the following conditions:

- ☆ Have enrolled in VA health care before 25 July 2003,
- ☆ Requested their first primary care appointment with the VA before 25 July 2003 and
- ☆ Must have waited more than 30 days for his or her first appointment with a primary care physician by 22 Sept. 2003.

The VA estimates that 200,000 veterans will be eligible for the benefit. "Traditionally, an examination and a prescription, both by a VA physician, have been required before the VA would provide pharmacy benefits to veterans," Principi said. "By improving the process of giving veterans the medication they're seeking, we can enhance their health care treatment and reduce the waiting lists for everyone." Veterans covered by the new rule should have received information by mail

from their nearest VA medical facility about filling prescriptions by mail from non-VA doctors, including information for the doctors themselves. Principi credited Reps. John Mica (R-Fla.) and Rob Simmons (R-Conn.) with "playing an important role in launching this new benefit due to their keen interest in improving prescription coverage for veterans."



Avoid the Estimated Tax Penalty in Retirement

Have you or someone you know been charged the estimated tax penalty? Approximately 10% percent of all retirees reporting taxable pension and/or Social Security income in a recent year were assessed this penalty by the Internal Revenue Service. Being retired or 65 or over does not end your obligation to file and pay taxes. If you do not pay enough tax either through withholding or by making estimated tax payments, you may be assessed an estimated tax penalty when you file your federal income tax return.

Many individuals end up owing at tax time because they are not aware that taxes can be withheld from Social Security payments and pensions. New retirees may not be aware that a part, or most, of their income can be taxable. Contributing to the problem are sources of income from which no tax is withheld. These can include interest, dividends and capital gain income. Many retirees or their spouses continue to work and their withholding from those jobs may not be sufficient to cover the tax on their income from all sources.

When is the estimated tax penalty assessed? Generally, it is when you owe at least \$1,000 when you file your return and you did not have at least 90% of your current year's tax, or 100% of your prior year's tax, paid throughout the year through withholding and/or estimated tax payments. The best way to estimate how much tax you may owe is to complete IRS Form 1040 ES, *Estimated Tax for Individuals*. The form has a worksheet similar to a mini tax return that will help you estimate your tax for the year. To avoid the underpayment penalty you can: Have sufficient income tax withheld from your wages, pension and Social Security payments. Ask for withholding on your pension by filing a Form W-4P (W-4 for military retirees) with your servicing pay center. You can request withholding on your Social Security by filing Form W-4V with your Social Security Office.

Pay your estimated tax in quarterly installments, which are due the 15th of April, June, September and January. You can do this through Form 1040 ES, *Estimated Tax for Individuals*. You can pay your tax using either one or both of these options. Remember the target is to pay in

advance an amount that equals or exceeds 90% of the tax for the year or an amount that is at least equal to last year's tax.

For more information, see Publication 505, *Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax*. This publication, Form 1040ES, and other IRS publications and forms are available at www.irs.gov. For a free copy, call 1-800-829-3676 or call the IRS for additional information at 1-800-829-1040. Don't come up short at tax time. Do the math to determine your tax liability versus your tax payments. Complete the appropriate forms and avoid the penalty.

SBP Annuitants: Your Certificate of Eligibility Must Be Completed Annually!

Like clockwork, if you are a Survivor Benefit Plan annuitant, you are going to get two things in your mailbox each year. One is a tax statement and the other a Certificates of Eligibility (COE). Both are important documents. One is used to determine how much tax is owed and the other, the COE, determines if you are going to continue receiving an SBP check each month. The COE is automatically generated and sent to annuitants approximately 90 days before their birthday each year. It is important that it be completed by the annuitant and returned via mail or fax before the annuitant's birthday to avoid any interruption in pay. If a legal representative such as a power of attorney has been added to an annuitant's account, that individual should complete and sign the form, marking the legal representative portion as requested. Officials explain that upon return of the COE, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service processes the document according to the information provided and will either continue, adjust or terminate the annuitant's pay as appropriate. A marriage certificate is required when the "I married in the past year" box is marked to update the annuitant's account properly. An annuitant should include his or her name and Social Security Number, the name and SSN of his or her deceased sponsor and the signature date. Mail forms to DFAS, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, P.O. Box 7131, London, Ky. 40742-7131 or fax them to 1-800-982-8459.

DEERS Verification Changes for Unremarried Former Spouses

The Social Security number used to verify TRICARE eligibility in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) for unremarried former spouses is changing. Starting 1 Oct. 2003, DEERS will reflect TRICARE eligibility for these beneficiaries using the unremarried former spouse's own SSN and not the former sponsor's. Health care information will be filed under the unremarried former spouse's own SSN and name. These beneficiaries will now use their own name and SSN to schedule medical appointments and to file TRI-

CARE claims. The current Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, DD Form 1173, held by the unremarried former spouse is still valid until it expires. Upon renewal, the unremarried former spouse will be issued a replacement Department of Defense/ Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, DD Form 2765. The Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office is sending a letter to all beneficiaries affected by this change. The letter explains the new DEERS eligibility verification procedures and serves as official notification from DoD regarding this change. The letter does not, however, provide proof of continued eligibility for TRICARE health care benefits. Unremarried former spouses may contact or visit the nearest identification card issuing facility (locations may be found online at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>) for questions or assistance.

Your Letters

After the *Semper Fidelis* hits the street, we know it immediately because of the influx of calls and letters that follow. The Your Letters column was created to share a sampling of what we're reading. Your letters are subject to editing and we will not run names unless permission is granted to do so.

No ID card information on retired Marines. A retired Marine from **Rio Rancho, New Mexico** wrote: "...I can't recall reading anything about a retired Marine's ID card...would it be possible to devote a column in *Semper Fidelis* to retired ID cards? I would not be the only retired Marine who would appreciate it."

Response: *ID card information on retired Marines is on page 2.*

Negative refinancing experience. Another reader from **Queen Creek, Arizona** had a negative refinancing experience and wanted to alert fellow retired Marines about the mortgage corporation.

Response: *Because we are unable to provide the name of the mortgage corporation for obvious reasons, we have decided to direct readers to the Federal Trade Commission's Facts for Consumers, "Looking for the Best Mortgage." The FTC fact sheet states: "Shopping around for a home loan or mortgage will help you to get the best financing deal. A mortgage—whether it's a home purchase, a refinancing, or a home equity loan—is a product, just like a car, so the price and terms may be negotiable. You'll want to compare all the costs involved in obtaining a mortgage. Shopping, comparing, and negotiating may save you thousands of dollars. Interested in reading more? Visit the FTC's direct link at www.ftc.gov/bcp.conline/pubs/homes/bestmorg.htm or call them at 1-877-FTC-HELP. If you have a negative experience with a particular company or organization, alert the FTC via their Consumer Complaint Form, also available online or by phone.*

MCROA Becomes...**MCRA!**

In a historic vote, The Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association (MCROA) overwhelmingly decided to become the Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA) at the national convention in New Orleans, La. On April 26th the first enlisted Reserve Marines were inducted into MCRA. "This is a great day for the Marine Corps Reserve and our new organization. Since its inception, in 1926, MCROA has championed Marine Corps Reserve issues and now we have the opportunity to fully engage the whole Marine Corps Reserve. To aid us in this transition, I have appointed SgtMaj Pinero, SgtMaj Kuiken and MGySgt Capen as special advisers to the President," explained Col Kevin Hart, President of the Board, MCRA. Assistant Secretary of the Defense for Reserve Affairs, Mr. T.F. Hall congratulated MCRA on their decision and enthusiastically endorsed the goals of the organization during the annual conference in New Orleans. "Associations that support the men and women of the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserves provide a great service to our nation. The more that such associations help make our voices to be heard, the better off we are," said Mr. Hall.

LtGen McCarthy, Commander Marine Forces Reserve agreed with Secretary Hall when he said, "This is the right decision and I believe MCRA will become a more powerful voice for the Marine Corps Reserve. I look forward to working with the association on the issues important to our Reserve Forces." I am enthused about the opportunity to help shape MCRA. By including our enlisted Reserve Marines, we not only become more powerful advocate for the reserve community, but have the opportunity to engage the entire Reserve Force. As such, I will be speaking to the Camp Croder graduating classes this summer, both to explain this change and get input into how MCRA can best serve all of our Reserve Marines, added SgtMaj Pinero, Reserve Affairs Sergeant Major.

Interested Marines can get information about and join MCRA by visiting www.MCRAssn.org or by contacting GySgt Tom Green at Gy-Green@aol.com or (703) 630-3772.

MCX Mystery Shoppers Needed!

The Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) is looking for "Mystery Shoppers" to take part in periodic assessments for their Exchange operations. Mystery shoppers enter the local Exchange as average customers and evaluate the products and services offered. As anonymous customers, mystery shoppers do what managers cannot – they receive unbiased treatment and provide accurate, objective feedback on service quality. Mystery shoppers are paid between \$15 and \$25 for each completed assignment and must have Exchange privileges. Confero, a North Carolina based mystery-shopping company, has been contracted by the MCX to conduct periodic mystery shopping visits of Marine Corps Exchange stores in the United States and Japan.

If you are interested in taking part in the program you must first register with Confero by going to the MCCS website at www.usmc-mccs.org and click the Mystery Shopper logo. On the Mystery Shopper page, click on the "Apply Here Link" at the bottom of the page and complete the application. Be sure to include that you were referred by MCX. Once your application has been received and reviewed, you may receive a Shopper Identification Number. This number will allow you to access our secure, shopper web site and view what MCX assignments that are available. You may request assignments for those MCX locations that you are interested in. You will receive an email from Confero telling you which assignments you have been accepted for. Once you are accepted for an assignment, you will receive guidelines explaining what to look and listen for as you conduct a mystery shopping visits. For instance, you will be told to notice such things as signage, merchandise issues, and if the cashier says thank you at the end of your transaction. You will also receive a copy of the survey you will be required to answer. Following your visit, you will

complete and submit this survey via the web. For more information about the mystery-shopper program visit

<http://www.conferoinc.com/mccs-mcx.htm>.





DeCA Suspends Home-Printed Coupons

Commissaries are no longer accepting “home-printed” coupons as the grocery industry comes to terms with fraudulent use of Internet coupons. Many commercial grocers are declining to accept home-printed coupons; while most are legitimate, home computers and Internet access have made it easy to alter legitimate coupons. To protect against loss, officials at the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), have suspended acceptance of home-printed photocopied or facsimile-generated coupons (both color and black-and-white). Manufacturers coupons, the kind you clip out of newspapers or magazines or those you receive in the mail will still be accepted.

DFAS myPay Customers Cautioned Against ‘Look-Alike’ Sites

The two million military and civilian users of myPay are being cautioned to use only the official myPay site (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) when seeking to access pay account information. “Personal information is valuable and should be safeguarded,” said Claudia L. Bogard, director of Corporate Communications for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. “Don’t provide your personal information to any web site unless you know it can be trusted.” Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense. DFAS’ myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated web site that lets active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online.

Combat Related Special Compensation Update

Insufficient documentation continues to slow the Combat Related Compensation (CRSC) review process, which requires the staff to request medical records to search for documentation. If you have not received an initial letter from the CRSC Branch, you should wait 60-90 days before contacting them by letter.

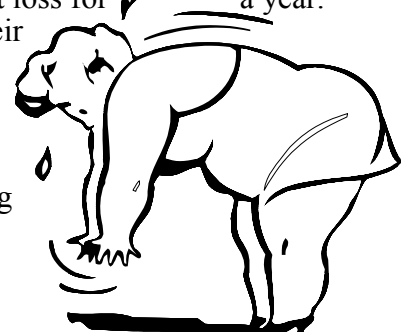
NHLBI Study Finds Moderate Physical Activity Promotes Weight Loss as Well as Intense Exercise

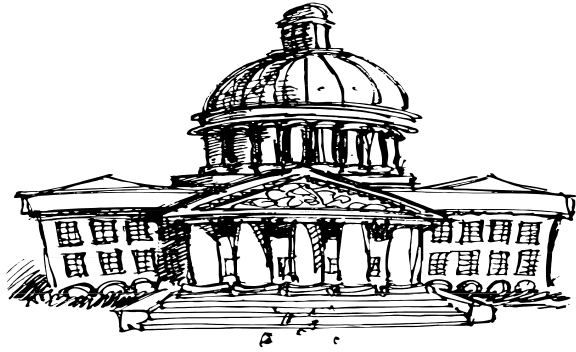
Women trying to lose weight can benefit as much from a moderate physical activity as from an intense workout, according to a new study supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Prior studies had focused on short-term weight loss. Data were lacking about the optimal degree and amount of physical activity for long-term weight loss. The study, “Effect of Exercise Dose and Intensity on Weight Loss in Overweight, Sedentary Women: A Randomized Trial,” appeared in the September 10, 2003, issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). The same issue of *JAMA* also includes an article on recreational physical activity and breast cancer risk. The study, based on data from the Women’s Health Initiative’s Observational Study, found that increased physical activity was associated with a reduced risk for breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Longer duration physical activity gave the most benefit but the physical activity did not need to be strenuous to reduce breast cancer risk.

The exercise dose and intensity trial involved 201 overweight but otherwise healthy women between ages 21 to 45. All received reduced calorie meals in addition to being randomly assigned to one of four physical activity regimens, which varied by intensity and duration. The regimens consisted of either a moderate- or vigorous-intensity physical activity performed for either a shorter (2½ to 3½ hours per week) or longer (3½ to 5 hours per week) duration. The physical activity consisted primarily of brisk walking, and the regimens used about 1,000 or 2,000 kcal per week.

Women in all four groups lost a significant amount of weight, about 13 to 20 pounds, and maintained their weight loss for a year. They also improved their cardio respiratory fitness. However, the amount of weight lost or fitness improvement was not different among the four groups.





Legislative Updates

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

The House unanimously approved **H.R. 2297**, an omnibus veterans benefits bill that had been approved by the House Veterans Affairs Committee in June. The bill authorizes continuation of the VA survivor annuity, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for qualifying survivors who remarry after age 55. DIC is paid to survivors of members who died of service-connected causes. This would bring DIC into alignment with the rules for every other federal survivor program. Among its many other provisions, **H.R. 2297** also would:

- ☆ Allow remarrying surviving spouses to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery,
- ☆ Permanently authorize VA home loans for the Selected Reserve,
- ☆ Eliminate the requirement that a POW be held for 30 days or more to presume service-connection for certain specific disabilities, and
- ☆ Increase specially adapted home and automobile grants for severely disabled veterans.

Recently, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, led by Chairman Arlen Specter (R-PA) and ranking member John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), cleared the following bills for full Senate action:

- ☆ **S.1131**, which provides the 2004 cost of living adjustment (COLA) to VA disabili-

ty payment checks and other benefits (Note: the COLA percentage was not available at the time the *Semper Fidelis* went to print);

- ☆ **S.1132**, the Veterans' Survivors Benefits Enhancement Act of 2003. This bill would raise educational assistance rates for surviving spouses and dependents of veterans who died of service-related causes and authorizes 45 months (vs. 36 months) of eligibility; increase the DIC rate by \$250 for qualifying surviving spouses with one or more children under age 18; and make surviving spouses eligible for burial in a national cemetery; among other provisions;
- ☆ **S.1156** would expand the requirement for the VA to provide nursing home care to veterans who have service-connected disabilities rated at 50% or higher (currently 70% or above);
- ☆ **H.R. 1156** would authorize national cemeteries in five areas: Southeastern Pa., Birmingham Ala., Jacksonville, Fla., Bakersfield, Calif. and Greenville/Columbia, S.C.

Have online access? Contact your Representative at <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> or Senator at <http://www.senate.gov/>. Others may call the legislative switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Second Career

Do you have a job opportunity for a retired Marine? If so, we are looking for corporate employment opportunities only to run in this column. Include a brief job description, point of contact and send it to MMSR-6. We will run "Second Career" opportunities on a space-available basis. Neither the United States Marine Corps, nor any other component of DoD endorses the employment opportunities that are published in this column.

Project Manager - LLC is looking for residential construction managers in the Austin, Texas area. Two years experience in residential construction management and estimating required.

Building Doctor, LLC, (512) 785-5333
Attn: MSgt Jeff Radke, USMC (Ret)
117 Pin Oak Dr. Mountain City, Texas 78610
E-mail: openings@buildingdoctor.biz
URL: www.buildingdoctor.biz



Distribution Manager - DDA currently has openings in the southeastern United States. No requirement to relocate; extensive travel required. Our managers are dispatched directly from their residence to the job site. Competitive salary, travel expense allowance and excellent benefits package.

Directory Distributing Associates, Inc.
1-800-241-4558
Attn: Bill Scott, 2670 Breckinridge Blvd.
Duluth, Ga. 30096
E-mail: ddajobs@aol.com



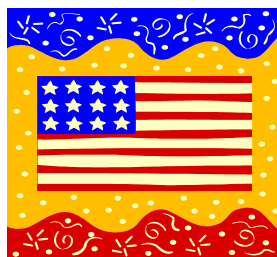
Nationwide Risk Management—Nationwide risk management company is seeking retired field grade Marine officers to conduct assessments of outdoor recreation facilities/operations in western U.S. Experience and interest in two or more of the following is required: equine operations, shooting sports, boating, recreational vehicles, search and rescue. Business background desirable. Send resume to:

Taylor and Associates, Inc.
51440 Elk River Rd., Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80487
Fax: (970) 879-0236



Mortgage Loan Officer— Looking for a mortgage loan officer with at least one year of experience, but will train someone with a strong desire to work in the mortgage field. Applicant will require licensing in one of the following states: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Washington, D.C. The commissioned position may be worked from home.

CWO Barry Singer, USMC (Ret)
Mortgage Star, Inc.
33 Donnell Ave. Havelock, N.C. 28532
(252) 447-5602
E-mail: bsinger@onebox.com or
bsinger@mortgagestar.com



Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas Veterans History Project

The Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas is being built in the city of Jacksonville, N.C., to honor the Marines and Sailors of the four installations that make up today's 'Carolina MAGTF' (Marine Air Ground Task Force), Camp Lejeune, MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS New River, and MCAS Beaufort. The Museum has collaborated with the Library of Congress in their Veterans History Project to preserve the legacy of the brave men and women who served their country.

Veterans of each branch of the Armed Forces are encouraged to participate. An estimated 1,500 WWII and Korean veterans die each day and their stories are urgently needed. Interviews submitted to the Library of Congress will be audio only and no longer than 90 minutes; interviews of Marines or Sailors who served at a Carolina Base, both video and audio portions, will be kept in the archives at the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas. To prepare for the interview, veterans will receive a list of questions in advance. Interviews will be conducted by appointment on ongoing basis, but emphasis will be made during next twelve months to record as many histories as possible.

If you would like to schedule an interview to tell your story or if you are interested in interviewer training, contact Museum of the Carolinas at 1-866-98-MAGTF or (910) 937-0033, e-mail: tmillnag@earthlink.net, point of contact is Tonya Nagle, Marketing, Programs and Volunteers Coordinator.

MCJROTC Openings

www.tecom.usmc.mil/jrotc

The Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is looking for a few good men and women to serve as instructors at various high schools throughout the United States. Retired officers and staff noncommissioned officers (SNCOs) are needed. Marines selected to serve in these billets will teach MCJROTC students discipline, self-confidence and the leadership skills required to successfully prepare them to meet the challenges of the future. In addition to their retirement pay, instructors will receive a stipend from the Marine Corps and the respective school system that equals their full military pay and allowances. MCJROTC instructors must be certified by the Commanding General, Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va.

Instructor vacancies are regularly added to MCJROTC's web site. You may also download application forms, review the curriculum and locations and read about the history of the program. Active-duty personnel may request certification for the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps one year before their retirement date and by retired Marines who have been in a retired status for less than three years. There are no exceptions! For additional information, contact:

Commanding General
Training and Education Command (C 46JR)
MCCDC
3300 Russell Road
Quantico, Va. 22134-5001
(703) 784-3705, DSN 278-3705

The following instructor positions are currently vacant or are anticipated to become vacant in the near future:

Senior Marine Instructors (Officer Billets)

- ☆ ALABAMA: J.O. Johnson H.S., *Huntsville*
- ☆ ARIZONA: Casa Grande Union H.S., *Casa Grande*; Ray H.S., *Kearney*;
- ☆ CALIFORNIA: Desert Hot Springs H.S., *Desert Hot Springs*; Leigh H.S., *San Jose*
- ☆ JAPAN: Dependent School, Pacific Kubasaki H.S.
- ☆ KENTUCKY: Betsy Layne H.S., *Betsy Lane*
- ☆ MASSACHUSETTS: Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech School, *Fitchburg*; Salem H.S., *Salem*
- ☆ MISSOURI: Forsyth H.S., *Forsyth*; Ruskin H.S., *Kansas City*
- ☆ NEW JERSEY: Clifton H.S., *Clifton*; St. Peter's H.S., *New Brunswick*
- ☆ NEW MEXICO: Rio Grande H.S., *Albuquerque*
- ☆ NEW YORK: Amsterdam H.S., *Amsterdam*
- ☆ PENNSYLVANIA: Ambridge H.S., *Ambridge*
- ☆ TEXAS: Marine Military Academy, *Harlingen*

Marine Instructors (SNCO Billets)

- ☆ LOUISIANA: Franklinton H.S., *Franklinton*
- ☆ MASSACHUSETTS: Beverly H.S., *Beverly*; Gloucester H.S., *Gloucester*; Haverhill H.S., *Haverhill*
- ☆ SOUTH CAROLINA: Jasper H.S., *Ridgeland*
- ☆ SOUTH DAKOTA: Lincoln H.S., *Sioux Falls*; Sturgis Brown H.S., *Sturgis*
- ☆ TEXAS: McAllen Memorial H.S., *McAllen*

HHS Announces Medicare Premium and Deductible Rates for 2004

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced recently the Medicare premium, deductible and coinsurance amounts to be paid by Medicare beneficiaries in 2004. For Medicare Part A, which pays for inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and some home health care, the deductible paid by the beneficiary will be \$876 in 2004, an increase of \$36 from this year's \$840 deductible. The monthly premium paid by beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part B, which covers physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment and other items, will be \$66.60, an increase of 13.5% or \$7.90 over the \$58.70 premium for 2003.

Medicare deductibles and premiums are updated annually in accordance with formulas set by law. The Part B premium is required to be the amount needed to cover 25% of estimated program costs for enrollees 65 and older. General revenue tax dollars cover the other 75% of the costs. The same statute prescribes the method for computing the Part A inpatient hospital deductible. "These premium changes underscore the need to improve and modernize the Medicare program," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "We need a Medicare system that provides more choices for beneficiaries and more incentives for efficient, high-quality care. Choice and efficient care can help keep Medicare spending and Medicare premiums affordable as well as help us down the road to preserving Medicare for future generations."

equipment and other services, including some home health care. Nearly 90% also have some form of supplemental coverage (such as Medigap, Medicaid or Medicare+Choice) to help reduce out-of-pocket medical costs. The Part A deductible is the beneficiary's only cost for up to 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care. However, for extended Medicare-covered hospital stays, beneficiaries must pay an additional \$219 per day for days 61 through 90 in 2004, and \$438 per day for hospital stays beyond the 90th day in a benefit period. For 2003, per day payment for days 61 through 90 was \$210, and \$420 for beyond 90 days. For beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, the daily co-insurance for days 21 through 100 will be \$109.50 in 2004, compared to \$105 in 2003.

Most Medicare beneficiaries do not pay a premium for Part A services since they have 40 quarters of Medicare-covered employment. However, seniors and certain persons under 65 with disabilities who have fewer than 30 quarters of coverage may obtain Part A coverage by paying a monthly premium set according to a formula in the Medicare statute at \$343 for 2004, an increase of \$27 from 2003. In addition, seniors with 30 to 39 quarters of coverage, and certain disabled persons with 30 or more quarters of coverage, are entitled to pay a reduced premium of \$189.

States have programs that pay some or all of beneficiaries' premiums and coinsurance for certain people who have Medicare and a low income. Information is available at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and, for hearing and speech impaired, at TTY/TDD: 1-877-486-2048. Information concerning the Social Security Cost of Living increase for 2004 is available at <http://www.SSA.gov>.

Most Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part B pay the monthly premium. The Part A deductible applies only to those enrolled in the original fee-for-service Medicare program. Those who enroll in private Medicare+Choice plans may not be affected by the Part A increase, and may receive additional benefits with different cost-sharing arrangements. About 95% of Medicare's 41.7 million beneficiaries are enrolled in the optional Part B, which helps pay for physician services, hospital outpatient care, durable medical



Buying Paper Savings Bonds Online Will End This Year

According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, Bureau of Public Debt, after December 30, 2003, you will no longer be able to buy paper savings bonds online through Savings Bonds Direct. You will, however, be able to buy savings bonds online at Treasury Direct (Series EE and I only), but you will not receive a paper savings bond like you did in the past.

To buy electronic bonds, you will need five things to open a Treasury Direct account:

- ☆ A Social Security Number,
- ☆ A driver's license or state identification card,
- ☆ A checking or savings account (you will need the routing number handy),
- ☆ An e-mail address and
- ☆ A web browser that supports 128-bit encryption such as Explorer 5.01 or later or Netscape 6.2 or later.

Some Qs and As About Eliminating Paper Savings Bonds

Q: Why will the Treasury stop issuing savings bonds in paper form? Is this an attempt to discontinue the entire Savings Bond Program?

A: Marketable Treasury securities (T-bills, notes, and bonds) have been issued exclusively in electronic form since 1986. With the advent of personal computers and the Internet, the Treasury is now able to offer a practical, electronic version of savings bonds. The Treasury does not intend to discontinue the Savings Bond Program. Moving from paper securities to an all-electronic environment will streamline operations and save the Treasury millions of dollars annually by avoiding the costs of manufacturing savings bond stock, processing purchase orders, and print-

ing and mailing bonds. Over time, it will also greatly reduce costs for handling claims for lost bonds and other transactions.

Q: Will paper savings bonds presented for redemption always be honored?

A Yes, as long as the presenter provides acceptable identification to the paying agent and any other supporting documentation that may be required under Treasury regulations.

Q: Will owners of paper EE and I bonds be required to open a Treasury Direct account?

A: No. Owners of paper savings bonds may continue to hold them in that form.

Q: When the Treasury stops selling paper savings bonds, what will happen to the value of paper EE and I bonds that have not reached final maturity and have not stopped earning interest?

A: Treasury Direct or the elimination of paper bond sales will not affect the value of paper bonds that are still earning interest. Owners of paper savings bonds may continue to hold them in that form.

Those who want to continue purchasing paper EE and I bonds can still do so through participating, local financial institutions. More information is available online at www.treasurydirect.gov. You may also call 1-877-811-7283 to listen to recorded news about savings bonds.



Taps

The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin. The following lists contains the Marine's name, grade, MOS (where available), dates of retirement and death.

Adams, Daniels D. PFC 0621 Sep 74/ Jul 03
 Alden, James M. Cpl 3515 Jul 67/ Jul 03
 Allen, Walter C. MGySgt 0291 Aug 88/ Jul 03
 Amos, Charles R. SSgt Oct 66/ Jul 03
 Anderson, Jerry S. LCpl Jun 70/ Jun 03
 Anderson, Morris 1stSgt 9999 Jan 93/ Jul 03
 Bailey, Linwood C. SgtMaj 9999 Oct 65/ Jul 03
 Baker R. S. 1stLt Aug 67/ Jun 03
 Barrett, Drew J. Jr. Col Jan 70/ May 03
 Beggs, Bernard F. Capt 0130 Nov 77/ Jul 03
 Bellars, Robert H. MSgt Jun 79/ Jul 03
 Biederman, Frederick L. GySgt Aug 63/ Jun 03
 Blough, George M. Cpl 0311 Jun 68/ Jul 03
 Bomar, Oliver B. Capt Apr 61/ Jul 03
 Bosse, Derwood R. GySgt Sep 68/ Feb 03
 Bowser, Alpha L. LtGen 9903 Jul 67/ Jul 03
 Bradshaw, Jack N. GySgt 0369 Apr 82/ Jun 03
 Brogdon, Charles J. Cpl Mar 69/ Jul 03
 Brooks, Richard S. LtCol Aug 89/ Aug 03
 Bryan, George D. LCpl Mar 52/ Jun 03
 Bryant, Harry A. Jr. MSgt 0848 Nov 81/ Jul 03
 Bryant, Joseph A. Capt 2010 Jul 80/ Jul 03
 Burns, George J. MSgt 6019 Jul 75/ Jul 03
 Candiano, Phillip J. GySgt May 70/ Jun 03
 Carpenter, Raymond R. GySgt 0369 Sept 71/ Aug 03
 Chapman, Oran W. Col Nov 78/ Jul 02
 Clark, Curtis R. Capt Dec 70/ Jul 03
 Clossick, Donald J. GySgt 0811 Aug 76/ Jul 03
 Cloutier, Russell O. GySgt 3071 Mar 73/ Sep 03
 Colven, Richard A. LtCol Jun 89/ Jul 03
 Combetto, Frank J. Jr. MSgt May 68/ Jul 03
 Cormier, Norbert J. MSgt 5831 Oct 87/ Jul 03
 Cox, John F. Maj 7304 Jul 64/ Jul 03
 Daron, William S. Maj Mar 86/ Jul 03
 Davis, Edwin S. CWO3 0240 Jun 74/ Aug 03
 Deboth, Robert J. MSgt 1169 May 83/ Aug 03
 Deloach, John T. LCpl Aug 67/ Mar 03
 Diehl, Albert H. MGySgt Jul 68/ Jun 03
 Difeo, Johnathon MSgt Oct 70/ Jul 03

Dinitto, Raymond R. CWO4 1310 Sep 97/ Aug 03
 Dodson, James E. SSgt 6046 Nov 81/ Aug 03
 Doggett, Aubrey C. LtCol Nov 88/ Jul 03
 Dolan, Donald L. SgtMaj 9999 Oct 82/ Jul 03
 Dowd Earl M. Jr. 1stLt Apr 46/ Apr 96
 Dryden, Jack E. Sgt Oct 59/ Aug 03
 Duvall, Joseph A. GySgt Jan 65/ Jul 03
 Edwards, Robert E. LCol Dec. 80/ Jul 03
 Etzel, H. E. SSgt. Oct. 66/ Jul. 03
 Fairwell, William P. 1stLt May 70/ Jun 03
 Filippone, Nicholas G. GySgt 2812 Feb 71/ Aug 03
 Floyd, Joseph C. Maj 1302 Jul 68/ Jul 03
 Fluman, Carl E. GySgt Jul 69/ Jul 03
 Foley, William M. LtCol 7522 Aug 76/ Jul 03
 Ford, Edwin C. Jr. Maj 0180 Jun 78/ Aug 03
 Fowler, Richard V. CWO3 Apr 93/ Jul 03
 French, Stanley L. Capt 2805 May 75/ Jun 03
 Garamella, William D. Maj Jun 75/ Mar 03
 Garner, Auston H. MSgt Feb 65/ Jun 03
 Georgia, Daniel C. Maj Jul 70/ Jun 03
 Gilbertson, Raymond C. 1stSgt 0193 Dec 85/ Jun 03
 Gillott, John C. GySgt May 61/ Jul 03
 Grace, Joseph P. LCpl 6351 Oct. 68/ Jul 03
 Green, Lester O. Cpl Jul 69/ Jul 03
 Grimm J. K. GySgt Jul 64/ Jun 03
 Guay, Robert P. LtCol Apr 71/ Jul 03
 Haney, Layton I. Cpl 0311 Dec 71/ Aug 03
 Hanson, Donald M. CWO2 May 62/ Mar 03
 Hardee, James C. Cpl 5591 Oct 61/ Jul 03
 Harrell, William F. LCpl 0311 Apr 73/ Jul 03
 Harrison, Richard L. Sgt Jun 53/ Jul 03
 Hays, Almus T. Maj Feb 79/ Jun 03
 Hibbs, Douglas P. Maj 1302 Jul 78/ Jul 03
 Higdon, Van B. MSgt Jan 66/ Jul 03
 Hintz, James H. MGySgt 0291 Nov 87/ Jul 03
 Hugley, Robert L. PFC Oct. 69/ Jul 03
 Hyman, James W. SSgt Jul 67/ Jun 03
 Jackson, Dudley D. MSgt 2181 Aug 77/ Jul 03
 Jenkins, Robert C. GySgt 6226 Jul 74/ May 03
 Johnson, John L. MGySgt Jan 67/ Aug 03
 Jones, Thomas H. Capt 6007 Aug 70/ Jul 03
 Justis, Eulas F. Capt 2010 Jul 61/ Aug 03
 Keifer, Lewis C. Jr. GySgt Mar 00/ Feb 03
 Kein, William Sgt Jan 66/ May 03
 Kelley, A. E. GySgt Dec 68/ Aug 03
 Kelly, C. F. GySgt Jan 69/ Aug 03
 King, Paul D. Maj 7333 Jul 64/ Aug 03
 Kovar, James W. SSgt Jul 67/ Jul 03
 Ladner, Barry J. GySgt 0411 Aug 00/ Jul 03

Lamphear, Richard L. GySgt 0193 Jan 72/ Jun 03
 Larkin, Victor A. Capt Feb 88/ Jul 03
 Lease, Richard J. 1stLt Nov 46/ Jul 03
 Leimgruebler, Norman J. MGySgt 0241 Apr 82/ Aug 03
 Leonard, Joseph V. MSgt Aug 67/ Jul 03
 Licalzi, Ernest MSgt Jul 71/ Jul 03
 Lichtman, Arthur Maj Nov 92/ Jun 03
 Lindley, William J. WO1 May 57/ Jul 03
 Little, B. MGySgt Jul 69/ Jul 03
 Lucas, Jerry J. GySgt Jul 69/ Jul 03
 MacDonald, M.C. LtCol Oct 67/ Mar 03
 MacPherson, Dwain P. LCpl 0800 Oct 73/ May 03
 Maerz, Frank L. LtCol 7333 Jul 62/ Jun 03
 Mann, Thomas M. Jr. GySgt 6672 May 00/ Aug 03
 Marion, O. J. GySgt May 60/ May 96
 Martel, Romeo G. Capt 3402 June 62/ Apr 03
 Martin, James C. 1stSgt 9999 Nov 73/ Aug 03
 Massarotti, Dante A. CWO3 Aug 69/ Jul 03
 McAdams, John CWO2 Aug 58/ Jul 03
 McCain, Gene M. Col 9906 Jul 76/ May 03
 McMullen, John W. GySgt Dec 61/ Jan 03
 Menser, Raymond E. PFC Jul 61/ Jun 03
 Mickle, Don A. Col 9907 Sep 78/ Jul 03
 Middaugh, Richard A. PFC Dec 55/ Jul 03
 Mitchell, Robert H. LtCol Jul 63/ Aug 03
 Moore, Oscar D. MSgt 1831 Sept 72/ Aug 02
 Mordaunt, Raymond Cpl Mar 69/ Jun 03
 Moss, Melvin E. CWO2 Jul 93/ Mar 03
 Mullins, Cecil PFC Jul 53/ May 03
 Munizza, Philip R. GySgt 3052 Jul 73/ Jul 03
 Murphy, Francis J. SgtMaj 9999 Sep 75/ Aug 03
 Nelson, Robert L. SSgt Dec 62/ Jul 03
 Newburn, William T. GySgt 3051 May 72/ Jul 03
 Norton, Lawrence E. MGySgt Nov 67/ Jul 03
 OBrien, John M. LCpl 6217 Jul 03/ Jul 03
 OConner, Philip T. GySgt 2145 Feb 71/ Jul 03
 ODell, Frederick L. WO1 3049 Jul 54/ May 03
 Osipoff, Walter S. Col 0402 Jul 64/ Jul 03
 Ough, J. T. MSgt Mar 67/ Aug 03
 Overman, Richard E. Jr. Maj Aug 92/ May 03
 Palmer, Ralph CWO2 Nov 70/ Aug 03
 Payne, Bobby L. SgtMaj 9999 Dec 70/ Jul 03
 Phillips, Carl G. SSgt 0182 Dec 72/ Jun 03
 Plourde, Daniel L. MGySgt 6291 Oct 74/ Jul 03
 Powell, Robert H. SgtMaj 9999 Aug 73/ Jul 03
 Price, Zenith R. SgtMaj 0369 Jan 87/ Jul 03
 Procaccino, Henry MGySgt 1833 Feb 78/ Jul 03
 Purnell, Paul L. GySgt 2639 Sep 78/ Jun 03
 Putnam, Charles W. Col Apr 77/ Jul 03
 Randall, Gray L. Col 4402 Apr 00/ Jun 03

Reidland, W. L. GySgt Jul 60/ Jul 03
 Reynolds, Jack Jr. Maj Jun 85/ Aug 03
 Rist, P. L. Cpl May 51/ Aug 03
 Robbins, Loraine W. MGySgt Oct 69
 Roberts, George V. GySgt Feb 53/ Jul 03
 Robertshaw, Louis B. LtGen Jul 71/ Jul 03
 Robinson, James E. Jr. GySgt 0691 Oct 91/ Apr 03
 Roeder, Ramond E. Col 9908 Jul 74/ Jul 03
 Scaggs, James E. MSgt Jul 73/ Jun 03
 Schuesler, John R. LtCol Mar 89/ May 03
 Sharp, Albert J. MSgt 4691 May 77/ Jun 03
 Sheldon, James A. MSgt Jul 70/ Jul 03
 Simerly, Calvin F. LtCol 3002 Jul 81/ Jul 03
 Skinner, Robert E. MGySgt 3091 Sept 75/ Aug 03
 Smith, Gordon C. MSgt Aug 66/ Jul 03
 Smith, Robert L. LtCol Dec 72/ Jul 03
 Smoke, Frank R. LtCol 7557 Aug 73/ Jul 03
 Sole, Joseph A. LtCol 4402 Apr 84/ May 03
 Spencer, Wade P. GySgt 0193 Jul 72/ Jul 03
 Speranza, Joseph C. Cpl Nov 55/ Jun 03
 Stalcup, Bon W. SSgt 0141 Feb 74/ Jul 03
 StPierre, Donald J. Capt 3410 Feb 02/ Jul 03
 Sullivan, Darel V. 1stSgt 9999 Aug 68/ Jul 03
 Tallentire, G. A. CWO4 3202 Nov 65/ Jun 03
 Tanksley, Lawrence E. Maj 0130 Jan 75/ Jul 03
 Tanner, Edward A. LCpl Apr 69/ Jul 03
 Taylor, John F. SSgt Apr 60/ Feb 03
 Theriot, Norbert J. 1stSgt 9999 Oct 67/ Jul 03
 Thompson, W. GySgt Dec 61/ Jun 03
 Tomkins, Joseph P. CWO2 3510 Jul 57/ Jul 03
 Tremblay, Elie G. Col Oct 82/ Jun 03
 Tucker, Raymond M. Sgt May 52/ Jun 03
 Valis, Edward R. MSgt Jul 68/ Jan 03
 Venable, Walter R. GySgt 0369 Dec 75/ Jul 03
 Vobora, George J. LtCol Nov 69/ Jul 03
 Walker, Marion W. MGySgt 2891 Nov 78/ Jul 03
 Ward, Howard W. GySgt Aug 63/ Jul 03
 Watkins, William T. MGySgt 4095 Mar 72/ Aug 03
 Watson, Robert W. GySgt 0182 May 75/ Aug 03
 Weis, Lawrence R. GySgt Apr 69/ Jul 03
 Wells, Claire V. Capt 3302 Jul 76/ Jun 03
 West, Willie M. Pvt Dec 62/ Jul 03
 Williams, Ledford C. MGySgt Jun 81/ May 03
 Wolfe, H. W. GySgt Feb 59/ Aug 03
 Wolfe, Richard T. 1stSgt 9999 Jun 61/ Jun 03
 Woods, Laurence H. Col 9906 Jan 72/ Jul 03
 Wright, Richard M. Capt Aug 69/ Aug 03
 Yaikow, J. W. Sgt Feb 63/ Jul 03

How to Report a Death for the Taps Column

Contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report a retired Marine's death. The names that you have read in the *Taps* column have been verified by DFAS.



They provide recurrent death listings to MMSR-6 for inclusion here. When you notify MMSR-6 of a death for inclusion in *Taps*, you may delay the process because the death information must be verified before it can be published in *Semper Fidelis*. Because the volume of incoming death notifications to MMSR-6 may significantly delay inclusion of your loved one's name in this column, make DFAS your first point of contact.

Steps to Take When a Retiree Dies

- ☆ **Notify DFAS of the death.** Stopping retirement pay immediately is critical to avoid indebtedness. If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability or civil service retirement, contact the appropriate agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later. DFAS contact information is on page 5 under "Pay Issues."
- ☆ **Survivor Benefit Plan election.** Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected the SBP.
- ☆ **Update your military identification card.** Doing so will reflect the change in status to a survivor's ID card. Contact your nearest ID card issuing site or MMSR-6 at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310.

- ☆ **Burial benefits.** The Department of Veterans Affairs provides information on burial benefits. Contact your nearest VA representative by calling 1-800-827-1000.

Required documents to claim death benefits may include:

- ☆ DD 214s,
- ☆ Birth and death certificates,
- ☆ Beneficiary information (marriage license and/or divorce decree),
- ☆ Updated will and letter of instructions,
- ☆ Financial information with account numbers,
- ☆ Adoption or naturalization documents, if applicable and
- ☆ Disposition instructions for the body.

Steps to Take When an Annuitant Dies

Notify DFAS immediately. Refer to page 5 under "Pay Issues" for contact information. Include the annuitant's and the retired member's SSN on any written correspondence to DFAS. If death notification is by telephone, have readily available the SSN of the deceased annuitant and retired member, the annuitant's date of death and the name, address and telephone number of the next of kin or other contact; also specify who will send a copy of the death certificate.

Avoid Indebtedness to DFAS!

Retired and annuitant pay ends the month before the date of death. DFAS will contact the bank directly to recover electronic payments.

This rule also applies for payments from other sources such as the VA or civil service.

Reunions

Send your reunion requests to the Editor, MMSR-6. Reunions will be edited as needed. Incoming mail is inspected and as a result, we may not receive last-minute submissions in time for this column. Have a Navy reunion? Specify an applicable Marine detachment or send them to: Navy Personnel Command, Shift Colors (PERS-05), 5720 Integrity Dr., Millington, Tenn. 38055-0500.

Basic Class 4-65 is planning a reunion for 2004. POC: Bill Jeffrey, 315882 Rein Ct., Green Oaks, Ill. 60048, (847) 367-4986, biljoyjoe@aol.com.

E-2-7 1stMarDiv (Korea 1950-54) in Tunica, Miss., 4-6 April 2004. POCs: Troy Watson, (972) 716-9928, tsw8433@yahoo.com or Chuck Tidwell, (843) 650-7082, Chubar84@aol.com.

Fox Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines (Vietnam) in Reno, Nev., 26 July to 1 Aug. 2004. POC: 1stSgt William B. (Sam) Henderson, USMC (Ret), 6201 Iroquois Terr., Stagecoach, Nev. 89429-9512, (775) 629-0081, deh1262@aol.com.

HMLA 267 (Camp Pendleton) in planning stages. POC: Thomas Young "Phoenix", 910 Palmer Ln., Palm Harbor, Fla. 34685, (727) 784-7764, phoenix69@uophx.edu.

Iwo Jima Commemorative Cmte., 59th anniversary of the Marines' landing on Iwo Jima at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., 20-21 Feb. 2004. Men, women and friends of the 3d, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions and the general public are invited. POC: Iwo Jima Cmte., 308 Aqueduct Ct., Placentia, Calif. 92870-5469.

Iwo Jima Veterans and Family Assn. in Wichita Falls, Texas, 18-22 Feb. 2004. POC: Howard "Phil" Phillips, 978 Orangewood Dr., Brea, Calif. 92821-2514, (714) 990-2560, iwoji-mavets_family@sbcglobal.net (Note: An underscore separates "iwojimavets" and "family.")

Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station (1956-61) is planning a reunion. POC: Oliver E. Copeland, 5309 Roberta Ln., Temple Terrace, Fla. 33617, (813) 984-8208, ocjcr@aol.com or William Chandler, 369 Lorenzo Dr., Spring Hill, Fla. 34608.

Looking for Marine personnel who were stationed in Morocco (any era) for a Nov. 2004 reunion in El Cajon, Calif. POC: Lennie Brooks, (619) 442-4493, lennieb89@cox.net.

Marine Corps Air Transport Assn., 15th reunion at Calloway Gardens, Ga. POC: Grady Loveless, (706) 882-8653, majgel@mindspring.com or Con Shuck, (972) 293-2670, conshuck@mcata.com.

Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Assn. in Branson, Mo., 3-6 May 2004. Registration packet at Ozark Mtn. Sightseeing, P.O. Box 1167, Branson, Mo. 65615 or register online at www.bransonfun.com (Mention "MCARA"). More information at www.MCARA.com or PaulTKuras@aol.com.

Marine Security Guard, Mexico City (1958-62) in Biloxi, Miss., planning stages for fall 2004. POC: 1stSgt Joe Demoran, USMC (Ret), 625 Livingston St., LaCrosse, Wisc. 54603, (608) 779-4546, joeedemusmc@aol.com.

Officers Basic School Class 3-56 (Cos. E, F, G) in Arlington, Va., 20-23 May 2004. POC: Brad McDonald, (703) 536-4418, ABMCDON-AL7@aol.com or Reed Phillips, (703) 780-3615, reedphil@aol.com.

OCS 8/73 - TBS 2/74, 30 yrs., Lieutenants, SPCs. If interested in a reunion, contact Leo Blo-schock at lbloscho@sccoast.net.

Marine Detachment, U.S.S. Elokomin A0-55 in St. Augustine, Fla. Planning stages. POC: Tim Murphy, 8921 Mtn. Valley Rd., Fairfax Station, Va. 22039, (703) 679-3471, timurphy@caci.com.

26th SBC (1953-54) in Dumfries, Va. POC: William O. Lenihan, Esq., 10 Park Ave., #8B, New York, N.Y. 10016, (203) 972-7655, odonel@msn.com.

Cold War Certificates Still Available

Service members, veterans and federal employees who served between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991, are still eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate, said officials of the U.S. Army Personnel Command. In fiscal year 1998, the secretary of Defense approved awarding the certificate to personnel who served during the Cold War. Thus far, about one million people have responded out of the 22 million entitled to receive the certificate, officials said.

An application for the Cold War Recognition Certificate is available online at <https://coldwar.army.mil>. The web site informs applicants about the correct procedures and the required documentation to receive the certificate. It also reminds you that the minimum turn-around time is six months. Applications will only be accepted by fax or mail, officials said. More information on the certificate can be found on PERSCOM's Cold War web site or by calling customer service at (703) 325-5864. Approximately 680,000 certificates have been completed and mailed to the requestors.

How to Access the Semper Fidelis Online:

Go to www.usmc.mil. Note that it may take several seconds before ten links will appear on your screen. The links are located next to the slogan, "The Few. The Proud." Click on the link "Career," and "Retired," which will direct you to the "Retired Activities Home Page." There, you should see the link to the *Semper Fidelis* and other retired-related information.



Marine Corps Retired Activities Offices

MCAS YUMA ARIZONA
POC: SELDON E STONE JR.
(928) 341-5616

MCLB BARSTOW CALIFORNIA
POC: NAPOLEON DUMO
(760) 577-6533
dumonh@barstow.usmc.mil

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS CALIFORNIA
POC: PHILIP C. CISNEROS, (760) 830-7550
site0790@29palms.usmc.mil

MCB CAMP PENDLETON CALIFORNIA
POC: LAUREN SLATE, (760) 725-9791
slatel@pendleton.usmc.mil

MCRD SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA
POC: PAT BROMLEY, (619) 524-5301
1-888-718-3027, blasf@mcrcsd.usmc.mil

MCAS MIRAMAR CALIFORNIA
POC: MARVIN MUSKAT, (858) 577-4806
ombrao@miramar.usmc.mil

MCLB ALBANY GEORGIA
POC: JAMES CAREY SNIPES, (229) 639-5277
snipesjc@logcom.usmc.mil

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE NORTH CAROLINA
POC: RANDY REICHLER, (910) 451-3212, ext. 205
reichlerr@lejeune.usmc.mil

MCAS CHERRY POINT NORTH CAROLINA
POC: TOM L. STIGAR, (252) 466-5548
ombraochpt@cherrypoint.usmc.mil

MCB CAMP SD BUTLER OKINAWA JAPAN
POC: LARRY ALSOP, DSN 645-3195
alsopl@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org

MCB QUANTICO, VIRGINIA
POC: A.J. SANDY ANTONIK, (703) 784-3351
retiredactivities@nt.quantico.usmc.mil

HQMC HENDERSON HALL VIRGINIA
POC: SHEREE DEROCHER, (703) 614-6828
derocher@hqmc.usmc.mil

MCB KANEOHE BAY HAWAII
POC: ROBERTO KATEKARU, (808) 257-7790
katekarur@mcbh.usmc.mil

MCAS/MCRD SOUTH CAROLINA
POC: CORNELIUS N. DORSEY, (843) 228-7351
dorseycn@beaufort.usmc.mil

MCSA KANSAS CITY
POC: PAUL FARMER, (816) 843-3652
farmerp@mcsa.usmc.mil



Change Your Address Online!

If you are a member of any reserve component, retired from either active duty or the reserves, on the TDRL/PDRL or a member of the FMCR, you may enter your address change online, or if you prefer, you may print and mail it to MMSR-7. Go to www.usmc.mil. Note that it may take several seconds (or even longer) before you will see ten links to the right of the slogan, "The Few. The Proud." Select the links marked, "CAREER" and "RETIRED." You should then see the link, "Update Address" in the far right column. If all else fails, you may call MMSR-7 at 1-800-715-0968 to change your address by telephone.



Defense Approves Use of Ceremonial Bugle

The Department of Defense announced recently it has approved the use of the ceremonial bugle as an alternative to the recorded version of Taps played on stereo at military funerals. The decision was made by the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Charles S. Abell based on positive survey results from a six-month test of the bugle. The ceremonial bugle consists of a small cone-shaped device inserted deep into the bell of a bugle that plays an exceptionally high-quality rendition of Taps that is virtually indistinguishable from a live bugler. The department worked with private industry to invent the bugle. Missouri was selected to test the bugle because of its well-established state-run military funeral honors program. The test was conducted from Nov. 2002 to May 2003. Fifty prototype bugles were distributed to military units and other authorized providers of funeral honors, such as veterans' service organizations. During the test, family members and honor guard members were surveyed to gauge the dependability and acceptability of the ceremonial bugle. The resulting data indicated that the system is reliable and endorsed by over 96% of the families surveyed.

The ceremonial bugle will be offered to families as an alternative to the pre-recorded Taps played on a stereo, but will not be used as a substitute for a live bugler when one is available. Live buglers will continue to play at veterans' funerals whenever available. The Department of Defense provides military funeral honors free of charge to thousands of veterans' families each year. The ceremonial bugle is intended to enhance the dignity of military funeral honors. These honors demonstrate the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have honorably served their country. The ceremonial paying of respect is a final tribute to their service. Visit <http://www.ceremonialbugle.com> for more information.

2004 DFAS Retired Pay Dates:

2 Jan., 2 Feb., 1 March, 1 April, 3 May,
1 June, 1 July, 2 Aug., 1 Sept., 1 Oct.,
1 Nov., 1 Dec.

DFAS retired pay dates are scheduled for the first non-holiday weekday of each month.



2004 DFAS Cost-of-Living Adjustment:

(Sorry, DFAS COLA information not available at press time)
1.4% increase in January 2003

Partial for pre-8 Sept. 1980 entrants retired during 2002: 1.4%

Partials for pre-8 Sept. 1980 entrants retired during the applicable calendar quarters:

January-March: 1.4%
April-June: 1.4%
July-September: .5%
October-December: 0%



2004 Social Security Benefits:

2.1% increase in January 2004
(for beneficiaries of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income)



2004 VA Benefits:

(Sorry, not available at press time)
1.4% increase in January 2003

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S. MARINE CORPS!

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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Need to Update Your Address?

- ☆ **Retirees:** You may also make address changes online (turn to page 23 for instructions) or call MMSR-7 at 1-800-715-0968! *This also applies to members of the Individual Ready Reserve.*
- ☆ **Annuitants:** Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report any address changes.

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DISCLAIMER: Some of the information compiled for the **Semper Fidelis** comes from a variety of sources to include experts in their respective fields, i.e., DFAS, VA, TRICARE and OPM. Content was current at the time this publication went to press. Any delays in mailing may be due to unforeseen circumstances and we apologize for any inconvenience.--*The Semper Fidelis Staff*

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The "Semper Fidelis Memorandum for Retired Marines" is published quarterly by the Retired Activities Section to inform retired Marines and their family members on information of interest on their rights, benefits and privileges. Items in this memorandum do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Marine Corps (MMSR-6) or the Dept. of Defense.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact the Retired Activities Section (MMSR-6) at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310

We provide support to retired Marines, Marine veterans, their family members and survivors. In addition to publishing the Semper Fidelis, functions include:

1. Administering the SBP, SSBP and RCSBP;
2. Providing direct and indirect support through phone calls, interviews, e-mail and formal correspondence;
3. Publishing the Marine Corps Retirement Guide;
4. Certifying applications for military ID cards for retirees, veterans and their family members;
5. Maintaining liaison with the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council and attending annual meetings with committee members;
6. Monitoring and supporting the Retired Marine Appreciation Days/Seminars;
7. Making initial determination of benefit eligibility (not involving pay matters) for former spouses of active duty and retired Marines;
8. Processing requests for foreign employment and
9. Interacting and coordinating with internal and external DoD, government and veterans' affairs departments and agencies about retiree issues.